AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning on page 8 and continuing on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Studies have been done on the expression of the FACIT molecules types XII and XIV in the developing avian cornea. These studies, as detailed in "A New Fibril Associated Collagen, Type XX, Expressed in the Developing Avian Cornea," by Gordon et al. (Abstract in *"Through the Looking Glass" Macromolecular Morphogenesis* Symposium Sponsored by The Schepens Eye Research Institute, Boston, MA, January 22-23, 1999, hereinafter "Through the Looking Glass"), have identified new FACITs, including type XX, that may be involved in organizing corneal fibrils. These studies conclude that the developmental expression pattern of types XII, XIV, and XX collagen is correlated with the potential functions of these molecules in the avian cornea. The smaller amino terminal third noncollagenous (NC3) domains of type XX suggests that it may allow collagen fibrils closer proximity to each other.

Please REPLACE the FIRST FULL paragraph on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

To examine the cornea during corneal injury, a study on the relationship between "Growth Factors and Proteoglycans in the Stroma," by V. Trinkaus-Randall, et al. (Abstract in "Through the Looking Glass"), indicated that transforming growth factor β

(TGFβ) played a role in the process of wound repair. TGFβ altered the composition of the extracellular matrix in stromal fibroblasts at the level of both core protein and glycosaminoglycan (GAG). The increase in perlecan might enhance the responsiveness of basic fibroblast growth factor (βFGF) and alter its binding to cell surface.

Please REPLACE the THIRD FULL paragraph on page 12 with the following amended paragraph:

In a study relating to the "Control of Matrix Assembly and Cell Growth by Proteoglycan Signaling," by R. V. Iozzo (Abstract in "Through the Looking Glass"), it was shown that decorin, a prototype member of an expanding family of small leucine-rich proteoglycans, was directly involved in the control of matrix assembly primarily because of its ability to bind fibrillar collagen and to delay fibrillogenesis. The study also observed that decorin might act as a direct modulator of cell growth. For example, decorin levels are markedly elevated during growth arrest and quiescence, and its expression is abrogated by viral transformation. The study demonstrated that there was a direct interaction between decorin protein core and the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor. Therefore, the heightened biosynthesis of decorin by stromal elements in either wound healing or cancer growth might represent a natural mechanism of growth control.

Please REPLACE the THIRD FULL paragraph on page 22 with the following amended paragraph:

Five cats were used in the study. Each cat was sedated prior to topical application of medication or photography of the eye. All animals received an ocular examination and photographs (whole eye, slit lamp, and endothelial cells) prior to treatment. Eyes were randomly assigned to a treatment group. The decorin was applied to the interior of a contact lens and the lens placed on the cat's eye. The lens remained on the eye for 10 minutes. All animals were observed briefly daily during the study. Three eyes were randomly assigned to a treatment or control group (1 eye). At least 2 more eyes were obtained for use as controls for each of the histograph, transmission electron microscopy (TEM), and confocal microscopy evaluations.

Please DELETE any previous ABSTRACT and REPLACE the abstract with the NEW abstract provided on a separate sheet as an ATTACHMENT to this Amendment.